

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner hose assembly (~~3, 3', 3'', 3'''~~) including a flexible hose (~~5~~) and a rigid cleaning wand (~~6, 6', 6'', 6'''~~) attached at the a forward end of the hose, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the wand (~~6, 6', 6'', 6'''~~) extends rearwardly along a part of the a length of the hose (~~5~~), and ~~that~~ wherein the wand has a section with an open wall structure by which the weight of the wand is reduced.

2. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner hose assembly (~~3, 3', 3'', 3'''~~) according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the wand (~~6, 6', 6'', 6'''~~) has two sections (~~64 and 65, 64' and 65', 64'' and 65'', 64''' and 65'''~~) that can slide telescopically with one another such that the wand can have an extended length or a shorter retracted length.

3. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner hose assembly according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised in that the or~~ wherein each of said two sections ~~section~~ (~~64 and 65, 64' and 65', 64'' and 65'', 64''' and 65'''~~) of the wand has one or two longitudinal struts (~~66 and 67, 72 and 73, 66', 73', 66'', 73''~~) between which are one or two windows (~~70, 76, 70'', 76''~~) are located.

4. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner hose assembly (~~3, 3', 3'', 3'''~~) according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hose (~~5~~) is retractable in length.

5. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner hose assembly (~~3, 3', 3'', 3'''~~) according to Claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a major part of the length of the hose (~~5~~) is stowable within the wand (~~6, 6', 6'', 6'''~~) when not in use.

6. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner hose assembly (~~3, 3', 3'', 3'''~~) according to Claim 4 ~~or 5~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hose (~~5~~) is retractable in length by suction applied by a vacuum cleaner unit (~~1~~).

7. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner including a vacuum cleaner unit (~~1~~) and a hose assembly (~~3, 3', 3'', 3'''~~) according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1.

8. (New) A vacuum cleaner hose assembly according to Claim 2, wherein the hose is retractable in length.

9. (New) A vacuum cleaner hose assembly according to Claim 3, wherein the hose is retractable in length.

10. (New) A vacuum cleaner hose assembly according to Claim 5, wherein the hose is retractable in length by suction applied by a vacuum cleaner unit.

11. (New) A vacuum cleaner including a vacuum cleaner unit and a hose assembly according to Claim 2.

12. (New) A vacuum cleaner including a vacuum cleaner unit and a hose assembly according to Claim 3.

13. (New) A vacuum cleaner including a vacuum cleaner unit and a hose assembly according to Claim 4.

14. (New) A vacuum cleaner including a vacuum cleaner unit and a hose assembly according to Claim 5.

15. (New) A vacuum cleaner including a vacuum cleaner unit and a hose assembly according to Claim 6.